



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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TURKEY EARTHQUAKES

VIDEO

EXTERIOR OF AYA IRINI

BENLI ON CAMERA

AYA IRINI MONUMENT

TRAFFIC / STREET

AUDIO

NARRATION

The Aya Irini Monument, fifteen hundred years old, rises on the crest of the Sultanahmet, on the grounds of the Sultans' palace Top Kapi. Crumbling and cracked, the Byzantine Aya Irini is one of the ancient buildings that the government of Turkey is trying to protect in case of an earthquake. (18")

Lemi Benli at Turkey's Ministry of Culture. (3")

BENLI: (Turkish) **M**

"This cultural heritage not only belongs to Turkey but it belongs to the whole world." (4")

NARRATION

Aya Irini is one of twenty-five hundred buildings in Istanbul that the government says is vulnerable to earthquakes. (7")

The 1999 earthquake in Marmara, Turkey, killed 17 thousand people and did about five billion US dollars worth of damage. (7")

ISTANBUL

But a similar earthquake in Istanbul would be far more devastating... Istanbul is the financial and cultural capital of Turkey, and a major earthquake here would paralyze the country. (10")

HOMES / ISTANBUL

Fifteen million Istanbul residents live in tightly packed houses. City leaders figure there are 2,000 streets too narrow for emergency vehicles. (7")

HAGIA SOPHIA / PEOPLE IN
STREETS OF ISTAMBUL

Experts warn a 7.5 quake could kill seventy thousand people in Istanbul, and topple as many as one hundred thousand buildings – something residents, like Ergun Gunciy and Cen Ten, are well aware of. (11")

GUNCIY ON CAMERA

GUNCIY: (Turkish) **M**
"We're worried about earthquakes. As a nation, we think we are not ready." (5")

CEN TEN ON CAMERA

CEN TEN: (Turkish) **F**
"I am worried because I can't really trust the construction in my house." (4")

STREET MARKET

VARIOUS BUILDINGS

NARRATION

To protect the city and its people, the government, with support of the World Bank, is examining and planning to reinforce hundreds of public buildings – 600 schools, 40 hospitals and nearly 200 historical sites, like the Archaeological Museum. (13")

PEOPLE IN STREET

The city of Istanbul also requires new buildings to be constructed according to code, and it's investing in the skills of and equipment for emergency response teams. (8")

COMMUNICATION CENTRE

One such investment is a new communication centre, where team leaders can direct help in case of an earthquake, floods, or snow. (6")

NATSOT CHILDREN IN CLASS

CHILDREN IN CLASS

This is a 10th grade geography class at the Sisli Vocational High School in Istanbul. (5")

NATSOT DRILL CHOP OF BUILDING

WORKERS DRILL BUILDING

Students used to come to classes in this building, but now construction workers are replacing the old concrete walls with shear walls, which can better absorb the impact of an earthquake. (9.5")

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

This is the last building on campus to be retrofitted for earthquakes. (4")

Kazim Gokhan Elgin is overseeing the project for the city. (3.5")

ELGIN ON CAMERA

ELGIN: (Turkish) **M**

"It is very important for our project to strengthen our schools. It's our future because, up to now, we're strengthening 230 schools which include nearly 400,000 students."

It's very important for Turkey and Turkey's future." (16")

NARRATION

BUSY STREET CORNER

The long-term goal of the project is to save lives and turn Istanbul, within the next decade or two, into a city that can withstand a major earthquake. (9")

BOATS IN HARBOUR

And in this ageless city, time is crucial: there's over a 50 percent likelihood of a major earthquake hitting Istanbul within the next three decades. (11")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Alison Schafer for the United Nations.